

THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

BY PROF. FISK P. BREWER.

Librarian, 1867-70

THE Library of the University has been, and perhaps still is, the largest in the State of North Carolina. The present Librarian on assuming his duties found no sketch of its history. The following summary of the principal facts that he has been able to learn, is published for the gratification of those interested and in the hope of collecting further materials. If he has fallen into any errors, he will be thankful for their correction.

FOUNDING OF THE LIBRARY.

The University though chartered in 1789 and located in 1792, was opened to the public and received its first students in 1795. The charter speaks of the Library as if it were to be an essential part of the Institution: and with the gathering of the first classes the Library was begun. Gen. W. R. Davie, afterward Governor, gave to it fourteen volumes in 1795, and subsequently added twenty-five more.—There is one volume indeed which was given before the Library or even the University had any being. It is a stout folio of Bishop Wilson's Works, one of a number presented to Congress by his son, and then distributed through its members to institutions of learning in the several States. The fly-leaf contains the resolution of Congress, March 22, 1785, and underneath the following record: "In pursuance of the above resolution the undersigned, delegates from the State of North Carolina, have agreed to transmit the works of Doctor Thomas Wilson to Newberne to be deposited there in the Library belonging to the public Academy, till the time arrives, which they hope is not far distant, when the Wisdom of the Legislature according to the express intention of the Constitution shall have caused a College or University to be erected in the State.

HU. WILLIAMSON,
JNO. SITGREAVES."

EARLY DONORS.

Among the other early donors Richard Bennehan, Esq., of Orange county gave 28 volumes and Joseph Blount Hill an Encyclopædia in 18 volumes. In 1816 Rev. James Hall, D. D., of Iredell, gave 49 volumes, a third of them printed before 1700, and all of them very interesting for their contents or history. About a hundred volumes were received from the Library of Joseph Gautier, of Elizabethtown, mostly French books of devotion and Protestant theology. Only ten of these are marked as gifts, and it does not appear how the rest came into the Library. About seventy-five other volumes besides Congressional documents were donated before Dr. Caldwell's visit to Europe in 1824.

LIBRARY TAX.

The authorities of the University, appreciating the importance of fostering the Library, took early measures to provide an income for it. A law in 1803 declares "Every student on the establishment shall be considered as using the books of the public library under the limitations and restrictions already established, and for this privilege each and every of them shall pay to the Librarian in manner already provided." What that earlier provision was, does not appear, but in the rates ordered to be published Dec. 6, 1806, the Library charge was fifty cents a session. The revised laws of 1813 raised the charge to "one dollar for the session in advance," and required the Librarian to "account to the treasurer of the board for the monies he has received as Librarian." Pres. Chapman reports (Nov. 1814) "that

since the Library money has been placed at our disposal for the benefit of the Library of the University, \$205.25 have been received. There is on file a catalogue of 174 books bought by the Faculty, probably with this fund, 29 in the year 1814, 102 in 1815, and 43 in 1816. In Dec. 1824, the Librarian (probably Joseph H. Saunders, the Senior Tutor,) reports 43 volumes and 64 numbers of Journals purchased at a cost of \$350.25 since "his account rendered to Committee of Appointment in February last." This was while the President was in Europe purchasing books and nearly the whole amount was advanced by the Librarian, the amount received from the students being only \$155, which was little more than the deficit of the previous report.—There is no later record of the purchase of books by the Faculty, and it is probable that the library charge was at this time abolished. It is not referred to in the laws of 1838, neither do the students' bills of 1830 contain it.

PROPOSITION TO ENLARGE THE LIBRARY.

A report of the Faculty to the Trustees (Dec. 1822) appeals earnestly through six pages for the improvement of the apparatus and the Library, closing thus: "Could the board find it consistent with the present prospects of the treasury, or with any provision which may be made, to direct that apparatus shall be procured to the amount of five or even of one thousand dollars for the ensuing year, and library equivalent to the one or the other of these sums, it is thought that the interests of the Institution will be promoted more efficiently than by any other means at its present stage of advancement." No allusion is made in the report to the annual revenue from the Library tax. Information on that subject seems to have been called for afterwards by the Trustees, as appears from a notable LETTER OF DR. CALDWELL on the Library, Feb. 19, 1824. He says, "Since the notice given by Mr. Manly I have had the Library examined, and have found that the books are all present, agreeably to the account herewith transmitted. The Record in the hands of the Treasurer, will show the number of the students for every session. These accounts therefore as now presented by the Faculty, are completely subject to control on the part of the Board; and we would invite the attention of a Committee, or of the Board itself to the state of the Library, at such time as may be convenient or eligible. I would suggest that a visit to the Library may be directed and made for inspecting its condition, and its correspondence with the accounts herewith rendered, during the annual examination in June. It had not occurred to the Faculty, though there is no proper reason why it should not have been done, to exhibit to the Board, our proceedings in the application of these funds. I shall be particular so to do it at all times hereafter, for the reasonable satisfaction of the Board at its annual sessions. It was a valuable privilege granted to the Faculty, and an important provision for the College, when the ordinance was passed appropriating the library money for the purchase of books. Without some such fund, I know not how we should have been able to get along as a body of Teachers. It has enabled us to procure some books from year to year, without which we must have continued grossly ignorant. We must have become completely stationary within limits, which if known to others would have been disgraceful. It is perhaps hardly considered with sufficient advertency that a professor in a College who is without books in tolerable supply, is analogous to the creation of nobility which for want of estate is obliged to live in rags.* What should we

* Please excuse the reference. Small things may be compared with great for illustration.

think of a lawyer or a judge who was told to go into the practice or the decisions of the courts, and to prosecute his profession with eminence and extensive success, while he was destitute of library, and unable to determine what were the laws or the decisions of authorities? What is to be understood by a standing professorship in a college, if it be not, that he who occupies it, is to employ his whole time and his utmost diligence in the extension of his knowledge by the examination and study of the multitude of authors who have written on the subjects upon which it is his business to teach and deliver lectures. It has been well said upon a late occasion in regard to impost upon books imported into our country, enforced by a law of Congress, that library constitutes a main part of *the stock in hand* to a man engaged in literature. It is almost proverbial to say of men whose business is literature, that they are a class who are apt to be found getting along with difficulty, ever cramped by the restrictions of necessity. What should we think of laying impost upon a shoemaker's awls and lasts, or a carpenter's planes and chisels, if there were no possibility of obtaining these instruments but by sending to Europe? And how could a printer commence and go on to execute in the handsomest style, and with the most extensive methods of his business in one of our cities, if he was turned into a building, and told to go to work with one or two fonts of types, and those perhaps half-worn? Obliged to make out his ink as well as he could, and to patch up his presses by his own ingenuity? It were easy to enlarge in these illustrations of the circumstances in which the Faculty here have been compelled to proceed in their business with few books and no apparatus. We have however been greatly relieved by the resource furnished in the library money, with which we have had it in our power to furnish some supplies of that species of food on which as instructors we are called upon to subsist and grow."

DR. CALDWELL'S OFFER.

Dr. Caldwell proceeded to show that a large percentage would be saved by expending a considerable sum at once, say \$6,000, which would be important enough to justify sending an agent to Europe on the business. He offered to go himself, if the Trustees consented to make the appropriation, declaring generously "My idea has been to answer the bill for all my personal movements on the business from my own resources." His expectation that the Library would continue to be fostered, is indicated in this suggestion, "By taking pains to contract personal acquaintance in the places visited for the transaction of business, any future expenditures for the University in books and apparatus, might be conducted without the necessity of an expensive or unsafe agency."

DR. CALDWELL'S PURCHASE.

Dr. Caldwell's offer was accepted, and he went to Europe the same year with six thousand dollars to expend for books and apparatus.—He exceeded this sum a little in his outlay, paying \$3,234.74, besides freight, for 979 books. Most of these had come to hand and had been placed in the Library by Dec. 14, 1825. He also brought over as donations *Thuanus* in six volumes folio from a bookseller, and 54 volumnes from a Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society.—Though no catalogue of the purchases is on hand, yet no doubt among them were a series of Latin (Delphin edition) and Greek classics in uniform bindings; a number of the original editions of early treatises on Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, as those of Galileo, Tycho Brahe and Kepler; and early editions of Euclid in Greek, Latin, Arabic, French and English, in which the composition of his own geometry may have given Dr. Caldwell special interest.

FURTHER PURCHASES PROPOSED.

At the close of his report for 1829 (?) the President transcribes the following representation "from the Professor of Chemistry for the consideration of the Board." "An annual appropriation of two hundred and fifty dollars for the enlargement of the college library was made in the summer of 1827, but no books have been purchased since that time though they have been greatly wanted. The reason why no funds have been appropriated specifically to this object is well known to all concerned, and is doubtless a good one. At the present time it is exceedingly desirable, to obtain the consent of the Board to the purchase of the following books probably amounting to such a sum as two hundred and fifty dollars." Here follows a list of fifteen volumes chiefly belonging to the Professor's department. His application seems to have been futile.

GIFT OF THE ENGLISH RECORDS.

It was possibly as a sequel to Dr. Caldwell's visit in England that the Record Commission some years afterwards, 1833—41, donated their publications, 83 folios and 24 octavo. Many of them contain on a printed leaflet the words "Record Commission, 12th March 1831. This book is to be perpetually preserved in the Library of the University of North Carolina." There are also twelve books and many pamphlets written or edited by the Secretary of the Commission, Charles Purton Cooper, which probably accompanied this grand donation.

PRO. MITCHELL ON THE LIBRARY.

After the death of Dr. Caldwell and the accession of Gov. Swain, Prof. E. Mitchell went North to examine a collection of minerals which had been offered for sale to the University. On his return, Sept. 1836, after having visited Yale and Amherst, the Episcopal College at Hartford and the Wesleyan University at Middletown, he comments on the condition of our University in the following terms: "The one particular in which our inferiority is most glaring and palpable is the want of what has of late been called the "material of science and literature—Books, Philosophical Apparatus, Cabinets of Minerals, Rocks and Shells. Nothing about the University of N. C. will strike an intelligent stranger who has been making public schools an object of attention as so little creditable to us as this part of our establishment. With reference to putting it into a good condition disbursements for almost any other object may well be avoided." Then after speaking of needed apparatus, Dr. Mitchell adds: "We have a professorship of Modern Languages and with the exception of a broken copy of Voltaire's works and some old books of controversy between the Catholics and Protestants presented many years ago by Gautier of Elizabeth in Bladen, have hardly a French work—in Italian, Spanish and Portuguese we have—nothing. Books are continually published in the different departments of science and learning which the Professors must have—without which the Library of the University cannot be respectable and which therefore it seems proper that the Trustees should purchase." He thinks that curtailments should "be made in any direction for the purpose of securing 8 or 10 thousand dollars to be devoted to the purchase of Apparatus, Library and Cabinets of Minerals and Shells."

CONDITON OF THE LIBRARY, 1836.

W. H. Owen, the Librarian, reports, Dec. 15, 1836, about 1900 books in the Library, of which he had prepared a catalogue not now preserved. Some additions were understood to be in contemplation by the Trustees. The books were kept in the Junior recitation room in Old South, second story, south side. He says: "From a thorough examination of the Library it appears that shortly after the college

went into operation and for a considerable time thereafter much pride was taken by gentlemen in different parts of the State in making valuable donations of Books to it, but for many years past this spirit of individual munificence has entirely ceased; and as no available appropriation has recently been made by your body, the Library has increased but very little since the addition made to it by the purchases of Dr. Caldwell in Europe. After the Resolution of your Body was passed empowering the Faculty to appoint some one of their number Receiver of College dues and allowing a certain sum for his compensation, the Professors agreed to discharge the duty alternately and to receive only one half of the sum allowed as a compensation and to expend the other half in the purchase of Books; but since the appointment of Prof. Mitchell as Bursar, of course this source of enlargement ceases."

A NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

A long blank now occurs in the history and development of the Library. In 1850 a new building was erected for its accommodation of which Hon. B. F. Moore, Chairman of a Select Committee of the Trustees, thus speaks at the annual meeting. "The Library now in the process of construction, will be one of the largest and altogether the handsomest of our edifices. The cost of it will altogether absorb all of our available means during the present year. How are we to obtain the books so much needed to supply the shelves of this capacious edifice? Not a volume has been purchased by the Trustees during the last quarter of a century. No stranger is ever invited to examine our present collection. The Professors have, in some instances, supplied the means of instruction in their own departments, by most inconvenient draughts upon private resources. It would require a princely revenue, however, to command the important publications constantly multiplying in every department of science and literature." The handsome building was finished, but the books were soon moved to the third story of the Old East, where they remained till the autumn of 1869.

PROF. MITCHEL'S LIBRARY.

In the year 1859 the books of Prof. Mitchell, who had died the year before, were offered for sale. The University purchased a large number, 1,897, as a manuscript list seems to show. It includes books of a wide range, history and theology, classics and literature, as well as natural and physical sciences. This is believed to have been the only purchase of books by the Trustees since 1824.

OTHER ADDITIONS SINCE 1824.

Within the past forty-five years a few gifts have been made by individuals, less than 60 volumes before March 1869 and about 300 since. Furthermore the Library has been enlarged by the deposit of some disused college text books; the Smithsonian Institution has given its scientific publications, 25 in number; the State has given 218 volumes of her laws, legislative records and law-reports; and the United States has given a constant stream of Congressional and Executive documents, including Coast Survey, Observatory, &c., full fifteen hundred in all. The total number of volumes now belonging to the Library is not far from seven thousand.

LIBRARIANS.

The Librarian of the University according to the laws of 1813 was "to be appointed by the faculty every half year." The revised codes of 1838 and 1851 alike provided that "The Senior Tutor shall be Librarian." The revision of 1859 makes no mention of the method of appointment which has since then been in the hands of the Trustees or the Faculty. Joseph H. Saunders was Librarian in 1824; Prof. W.

H. Owen from Dec. 1836-'43; Prof. Ashbel G. Brown, 1844-'56; Prof. F. M. Hubbard and Pres. Swain, 1857-'68; Prof. F. P. Brewer, 1869-70. Prof. Hubbard's name appears only in the three catalogues from 1866 to 1868, during most of which time the duties were performed by the President.

TESTIMONY OF LIBRARIANS.

The present Librarian acknowledges the courtesies of Prof. Owen and Prof. Hubbard, as well as of Prof. William Hooper, in aiding his investigations. The latter in reply to an inquiry for the names of Librarians before 1836, says, "The Library was so poor an affair for a State University that a Librarian was hardly necessary." Prof. Hubbard writes, "The College Library was never open to the Students; on two occasions only, as I remember, consulted by persons from abroad; and almost never—except as told above [used by Governor Swain and the Librarian]—used by members of the Faculty."

SUMMARY.

From this historical survey it appears that the founders and first managers of the University appreciated the importance of a Library and co-operated steadily for its accumulation; that already before Dr. Caldwell's death there arose either opposition or indifference to its enlargement; and that since that time, notwithstanding several brave efforts to give to this department its due importance, it has been treated with discouraging neglect. The Libraries of the two Literary Societies have indeed been fostered by their members, but their collections have been chiefly light reading and general literature. The University Library is now as far behind the requirements of the times as when the first President appealed to the Trustees for its liberal increase nearly half a century ago.

DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY BUILDING.

The new Library Building is in the form of a Greek temple. The entire hall is about 84 feet long, by 32 feet wide and 20 ft. high, and is lighted by five windows on each side. The basement has served for an experimental laboratory, but is now only a place of storage. The main hall was for a time used rather inappropriately for dancing parties.

SPECIMEN BOOKS.

The character of the presents and purchases for the Library may be illustrated by describing a few books. Among the gifts of the Record Commission is the Domesday Book of William the Conqueror, in two volumes with a supplement. It is, as is well known, a sort of census of England, taken eight hundred years ago, written in Latin with many abbreviations. Thus in the census of the county of Essex and "Hundred de Rochefort" a paragraph begins "Ragheleiam ten & S." The second word is *tenet* and S is the initial of Suein who *held Raleigh* under King William. We suggest as a question for the Historical Society whether Ragheleia is the village from which the remote ancestor of Sir Walter Raleigh took his surname; and if so, whether that ancient orthography should not be preserved in Latinizing the name of our city of Raleigh, rather than the form Ralega, which is used in the last Latin catalogue of the University?

One of the books, as we conjecture, of Dr. Caldwell's purchase, one at all events bought of a Paris bookseller, has the following full descriptive title surrounded with pictorial illustrations: "The Elements of Geometrie of the most auncient Philosopher Euclide of Megara.—Faithfully (now first) translated into the Englishe toung by H. Billingsley, Citizen of London. Whereunto are annexed certaine Scholes, Annotations, and inuentions, of the best Mathematiciens, both of time past and in this our age. With a very fruitfull Praeface made by

M. I. Dee, specifying the chief Mathematical Sciences, what they are, and whereunto commodious; where, also, are disclosed certaine new Secrets Mathematical and Mechanicall, untill these our daies, greatly missed." The date of publication, 1570, is given on the last page. The fly-leaf at the beginning bears the name of Montucla, a distinguished French mathematician of the last century, who was very likely the former owner of the volume.

A Latin Paraphrase of Milton's Poems by Gulielmus Hogaeus, 1690, is found among Dr. James Hall's donations. The Paradise Lost begins: "Primævi cano furta Patris, furtumque secutae." Another of Dr. Hall's gifts is Derodon's Logic, 1659. On the fly-leaf is written "E Libris Dan: Hyd: e Coll: Wadh: Anno Domini 1696," which seems to show that 175 years ago the book belonged to a member of Wadham College in Oxford University. A later hand wrote "Ex libris Guli. Livingstone." Perhaps the owner of the book at that time was the famous Governor of New Jersey.

Of Prof. Mitchell's books we select one, *Outlines of Philosophical Education*, by George Jardine, for the purpose of copying a neat criticism by Prof. Mitchell himself written on the fly-leaf. "The adjective Philosophical occurring in the title page of this volume is a misnomer. The Author at the time of composing it must have been between 70 and 80 years of age, since he states that he had been for fifty years professor in the University of Glasgow. Evidence of the forgetfulness incident to advanced age is furnished by his giving the same sentiments twice in the same language in the compass of a single volume. (Pages 452, 3, 4 and 518, 9.) He appears not to have been a man of great ability—but of much worth and fidelity in the discharge of his official duties who felt and proved the advantage of bringing his pupils to co-operate with him in carrying on their education by calling upon them for frequent essays on the subjects of his lectures. This is nearly the whole subject of the book which is called "Outlines of Philosophical Education" with reference to his being professor of Mental philosophy and not because any very new philosophical views on the subject of education are contained in it. His methods may unquestionably be applied with much advantage to my own department—chemistry, rhetoric and history. Dec. 19th, 1832."

MATERIALS FOR UNIVERSITY HISTORY.

We conclude this sketch with a list of the documents on hand (besides its own valuable archives) to illustrate the history of the University:

Of Catalogues the annual series is complete from 1848-9 to the present time. Of earlier years there are only those of 1829, 33, 38, 41 and 44. There are also the general Latin catalogue of 1852: the Dialectic Society catalogues 1841, 52; Philanthropic Society catalogue 1852.

Of College Laws, the editions of 1822, 1838, 1852 and 1859.

Programmes.—Commencement 1820, 27, 28, 29, 39, 67, 68 and 70. Freshman Exhibition June 1857. Examination, Nov. 1859.

Circulars, Dec. 1807, Sept. 1854, July 1867, July 1869, Sept. 1870.

Trustee Reports.—Report of Examining Committee Junc 10, 1819. George E. Badger on the Controversy between the University and the Claimants of her Western Lands, 1826. B. F. Moore on escheats, 1851. Annual Meeting, 1868. Reports to Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1869.

Commencement Addresses and Sermons.—By Hon. William Gaston, (Prof. William Hooper and Henry S. Ellenwood, before N. C. Institute of Education), 1832; Hon. Robert Strange, 1837; Hugh McQueen, 1839; Hon. John Y. Mason, LL. D., 1847; William Eaton, Jr., 1848;

Hon. William A. Graham, 1849; Hon. James C. Dobbin, 1850; Hon. A. O. P. Nicholson, James H. Dickson, M. D., 1853; Hon. Aaron V. Brown, 1854; Rt. Rev. Bishop Atkinson, George Davis, Esq., 1855; Rev. B. Manly, Jr., Matt. W. Ransom, Esq., 1856; Henry W. Miller, Esq., 1857; William Hooper, 1859; Archbishop John Hughes, John Pool, Esq., 1860; Hon. Wm. H. Battle, LL. D., 1865; Ex-Gov. Zebulon Baird Vance, 1866; John H. Wheeler, 1870.

University Magazine.—From Vol. I, No. 2, April, 1844, to Vol. X, No. 8, April 1861, there are twenty-three numbers but not one volume complete.

Historical Society.—Report of Secretary, June 1845.

Literary Works by members of the Faculty.—DR. CALDWELL.—Elementary Geometry in Seven Books, to which an Eighth is annexed containing such other Propositions as are Elementary—Subjoined is a Treatise of Plane Trigonometry. Phil. 1822.

Sermon at the Ordination of Rev. Samuel Paisley in Raleigh, April 4, 1813.

Sermon on the Doctrine of a Future Life, March 1828.

The Numbers of Carlton, concerning a Central Railroad. N. Y. 1828.

Letters on Popular Education, addressed to the People of North Carolina. Hillsborough, 1832.

PRES. SWAIN.—Report on the Historical Agency for Procuring Documentary Evidence of the History of N. C. 1857.

Mt. Mitchell, the Highest Peak of Black Mountain, 1858.

Early Times in Raleigh, 1867.

PROF. WILLIAM HOOPER.—Latin Prosody. Phil. 1819.

Sermon on Deceitfulness and Wickedness of the Heart. Fayetteville.

Sermon before the Chowan Baptist Association, May 1851.

PROF. ELISHA MITCHELL.—Four articles in Amer. Jour. of Science, 1830, 31.

PROF. DENISON OLMSSTED.—Outlines of Lectures on Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology at the Univ. N. C. Raleigh, 1819.

Natural Philosophy 1831. (Stereotyped Edition 1855.)

Astronomy, 1854.

Memoir of Eli Whitney, 1846.

Several articles in Jour. of Science and the New Englander (with memoir by Pres. Woolsey).

PROF. E. A. ANDREWS.—Latin Exercises. Boston, 1841.

Latin Grammar by Andrews and Stoddard.

PROF. JAMES PHILLIPS.—Elements of Conic Sections. N. Y., 1828.

PROF. CHARLES PHILLIPS.—Plane and Spherical Trigonometry with some of its Applications. Raleigh, 1857.

Memoir of Prof. Elisha Mitchell (with Bishop Otey's Funeral Oration). Chapel Hill, 1858.

PROF. CHARLES F. DEEMS.—Twelve College Sermons. Phil. 1844.

Southern Methodist Pulpit, 1849-52.

Annals of Southern Methodism for the year 1855.

PROF. H. H. SMITH.—Robertsonian System of Teaching French, with Rules of Pronunciation and a Full Vocabulary. Chapel Hill, '58.

To the above list might be added a few publications by other gentlemen whose connection with the Institution has been less prominent, as well as various articles in the N. C. Journal of Education and in the University Magazine.